

**CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Project Name: Mid Bench Fence Reconstruction.

Proposed Implementation Date: Summer 2012

Proponent: N Bar Ranch

Type and Purpose of Action: Reconstruction of north boundary fence line. Moving fence to existing logging road to ease fence maintenance

Location: NW4 Sec 36 T13N R21E

County: Fergus

<b>I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT</b>	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	David Workman, N-Bar Ranch manager.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	<p><u>No Action Alternative:</u> Deny the request to reconstruct north boundary fence line.</p> <p><u>Action Alternative:</u> Construct ¼ mile new fence along an existing logging road. Thin sapling size trees as necessary for fence building. Connect to existing fence in the NE4 of section.</p>

<b>II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES N = Not present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] Soils are described as Hughesville-Tibs-Whitcow complex with moderate erosion hazard and equipment limitations. Any disturbed areas would be reseeded to grass to control erosion. No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] No surface or groundwater present. No potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] A minor amount of vehicle / chainsaw exhaust will be produced as a byproduct of fence building.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] Fence construction will take place on an existing logging road. Sapling size trees will be removed as necessary to build the fence.  No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The project is utilized by wildlife species common to the region. A blue heron rookery is located within ½ mile of the project site. Construction equipment and activity will not enter the rookery. Minimal thinning activities in the proposed project will have little or no effect on wildlife species. No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] No federally listed threatened or endangered species, sensitive species, or species of special concern or habitat present. No wetlands. No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] No historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources present.
11. AESTHETICS: is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The project is not located on a prominent topographic feature. No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.
12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions within the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency within the analysis area?	[N]

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N]
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N]
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project created, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N]
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N]
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N]
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N]

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] No wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through the project area. There is no public access to this section so recreational use of the area is limited to adjoining landowners. No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N]
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N]
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: is there a potential for other future use for easement area other than for timber management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] If any merchantable trees are removed they will be paid for based on current stumpage prices. No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.
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EA Checklist Prepared by:

Barney Smith, Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office

Date

#### IV. FINDINGS

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:	
<input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved by:

Clive Rooney, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office

Date